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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KINSHASA 002182

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: A/S HOLMES VISIT TO DRC

1. (U) Summary: During A/S Holmes visit to the DRC Oct 23-28, SRSG Swing and staff explained the situation in the DRC and MONUC's accomplishments and challenges. At a luncheon hosted by the Ambassador, A/S Holmes learned about preparations for DRC elections and disarmament in discussions with DRC's electoral commission president and DDR coordinator. SRSG Swing accompanied A/S Holmes and delegation to visit MONUC operation in Bunia and Goma and to a meeting with the Governor of North Kivu. A/S Holmes later visited MONUC operations in Bukavu and Kindu, and met with the Governor of South Kivu. A/S Holmes reiterated USG interest in improving MONUC's effectiveness, and support for the DRC's transition in the DRC, at a meeting of CIAT--the International Committee to Support of the Transition. End Summary

MONUC HQ BRIEFING

2. (U) On Oct. 24, William L. Swing, UN Special Representative of the Secretary General in the DRC, chaired a briefing at MONUC HQ for IO A/S Holmes, Ambassador, DCM and Poloffs. MONUC Force Commander Samaila Iliya participated, along with MONUC officers from civilian police, political, DDR, external affairs, humanitarian, human rights, and administrative affairs sections. A/S Holmes was briefed on plans to bolster MONUC's capacity in the east, with a new divisional HQ in Kisangani and more deployments in the Kivus.

The SRSG and staff also briefed on plans for a new Deputy SRSG, the arms embargo, MONUC's support for DRC efforts to normalize relations with neighboring states, security sector reform, and elections. After the headquarters briefing, A/S Holmes visited the studios of Radio Okapi and learned about MONUC public affairs operations in a meeting with MONUC's Public Information Director and staff. Among other issues, the briefing covered Radio Okapi's media support for DDRRR operations.

MEETING WITH ELECTORAL COMMISSION PRESIDENT AND DDR COORDINATOR

3. (U) At a luncheon Oct. 24 hosted by the Ambassador, A/S Holmes discussed DRC election preparations with Appolinaire Malu Malu, president of the DRC independent electoral commission, and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration with DRC Disarmament Commission coordinator Daniel Kawata. Both Malu Malu and Kawata stressed the importance of MONUC's role in their respective areas of responsibility.

BUNIA

4. (U) On Oct. 25, SRSG Swing, DCM, and PolCouns accompanied A/S Holmes and delegation to Bunia, Ituri District, Orientale Province. Dominique McAdams, Director of MONUC Bunia Field Office and her staff briefed A/S Holmes on stabilization, MONUC deployments, and major challenges in Ituri, including political and humanitarian affairs. The briefing in Bunia also covered issues related to allegations of MONUC sexual abuse. Following the briefing, A/S Holmes visited the town of Bunia and a camp for internally displaced persons near Bunia airfield.

GOMA

5. (U) On Oct. 26, M,hand Ladjouzi, head of MONUC Goma (North Kivu Province) Field Office, and staff briefed A/S Holmes on operations. A/S Holmes spoke briefly with radio reporters in Goma, and later visited the Indian Air Force compound facilities, and the South African Task Force One compound near Lake Kivu. Bad weather precluded MONUC aircraft from landing at Beni for a scheduled visit at the MONUC sub office. Later, Eugene Serufuli, Governor of North Kivu, hosted A/S Holmes, SRSG Swing and delegation for dinner. Governor Serufuli spoke, among other issues, about his interest in attracting new U.S. investment in North Kivu. On Oct. 27, before departing Goma, A/S Holmes viewed the Indian Aviation Contingent helicopters at Goma airfield.

BUKAVU

6. (U) On Oct. 27, the Indian Aviation Contingent flew A/S Holmes and delegation to Bukavu, South Kivu Province. The Vice Governor of South Kivu and MONUC Bukavu Head of Office Alpha Sow met A/S Holmes on arrival. Mr. Sow and Kivu Brigade Commander Jan Isberg and staff briefed A/S Holmes on the political and security situation in South Kivu. A/S Holmes and delegation visited briefly the town of Bukavu and met with Augustin Bulaimu, the Governor of South Kivu and his

two Vice Governors. A/S Holmes spoke briefly with radio reporters following this meeting and participated in a radio interview with Radio Okapi in Bukavu. Separately, at a dinner with the delegation on Oct. 27, A/S Holmes discussed problems related to child welfare in the DRC, and identification of child combatants with Murhabazi Namegabe, program director for a Congolese child welfare and health NGO, BVES.

KINDU

17. (U) On Oct. 28, the Head of the Kindu Office (Maniema Province) Marie-France Heliere briefed A/S Holmes on the local situation, including DDR, support for the transition and humanitarian operations. A/S Holmes then visited the MONUC Uruguayan Riverine Contingent compound on the Lualaba River in Kindu.

CIAT MEETING, KINSHASA

18. (U) Later on Oct. 28 SRSG Swing hosted a meeting of the International Committee for the Support of the Transition (CIAT) to discuss the November 2004 mission of the UNSC to Central Africa. A/S Holmes, accompanied by the Ambassador, briefed the members of the committee on his visit to the DRC, the USG's interest in improving MONUC's effectiveness, and support for the transition.

IO Assistant Secretary Holmes clears the cable.
MEECE